

OUR COMPLETE SHORT STORY—

The Compensation :

—By
LYTLE W. ROBINSON

JOHN McGRAW was a failure. He had gone through life and never realized he was really. Retiring now at 65, he realized he'd not made a mark in the world—not one solid attachment to which he could point with pride. Nothing.

He was not at all happy as he started on the last lap of his route. "I'll run out. Well, it will be my road for six weeks now, and after today it would be to another—another, I mean. The thought made me feel so dead inside that he actually was, and for a man who had just gained his independence this was no way to feel."

John was a simple man, and he lived a simple life. Some people would call it dull, and he guessed he agreed with them. But he did what they'd like to do. For 33 years he had carried the mail in Bluff City, and in his time he'd seen almost every town in Winter and summer, through rain and snow and sweltering heat, he'd trudged along, carrying his load, smiling with a kind word for the housewives, a smile for the children; for John McGraw, the postman, brought his love, his warmth, his friendliness, too. He was born and raised here, and, when the time came he wanted to die and be buried here too. In all these years John McGraw had stood still!

A few more blocks he would walk, and then he pushed the thought out of his mind.

Forty years ago he'd struggled and struggled, and dreamt of great things; of accomplishing some- thing worth while in life. But those things had never come to a pass, and as he grew older the years cut out the dreams and ambitions of which he had once been so proud. Yes, John McGraw had failed.

At his home in the mountains, and Sara wanted security at any price. She was one of those who say little about their past. But John was a good woman—so good she made everybody else feel uncomfortable. It wasn't that she lost her temper, or the streams she seemed to always have with her.

He had never forgotten that day in his den many years ago. A spilt

cup of red paint had been dashed on an unfinishing chair, and his favorite brooch was missing.

"Yes, I did it," Sara said coldly. "I'm sick of the smell of paint. It stinks me. Don't you ever want to do anything?"

And it had caught him off-balance. He never suspected! He was a sell-out, he was a traitor—no, I don't, he managed to utter.

"I thought not," Sara continued. "Other men work for a living and get their place in the sun. I've been with a few messy checks and a two-room apartment!" And she'd shrunk there in the corner of the red splotch on the portrait. He looked at it a long time before he covered it with a handkerchief he had in his pocket. He'd have to do that and never painted again.

Now he was afraid if he tried. The name of John McGraw would forever mean nothing, for John McGraw had contributed nothing—not even a smile. He'd have to go to show for his years of toil as a public servant? A little white house, an aching back—and Sara.

He had to leave the envelopes in his pocket. Tomorrow he would retire on the Government pension he had looked forward to since the first day as a boy. The pension seemed so small now. Security? Yes. But it seemed a foolish thing to have work now, when he had to go to bed early to retire into unconsciousness on a dole.

Dreamily, he walked down the tree-lined street, so well he would raise the cheer. "Good Mornings" and the bright smiles of the people who worked for him. He saw his son's face, the face when he'd handed them the letters they expected; he hated to see the sag around their mouths when he had to add, "No, nothing for you."

"Good news and bad he brought to 'his' families these 33 years. He knew he would raise the cheer. Good Mornings" and the bright smiles of the people who worked for him. He saw his son's face, the face when he'd handed them the letters they expected; he hated to see the sag around their mouths when he had to add, "No, nothing for you."

Now take the Johnsons, for instance. John was a success. He had his own business; owned a fine home. He had something to be proud of.

John crossed the street to the Morrows. A big family they were, three boys and three girls. Mrs. Morrow was a spinsters, and one day a rainstorm she'd insisted on getting him a hot cup of coffee. He hadn't forgotten, even if it had been five years ago.

As usual, little Theresa raced out to meet him. "Hi," she said smiling brightly.

He handed her four letters and patted her tow head. "How's my little girl?"

"Fine—and thanks," she beamed, then dashed excitedly back into the house calling to her mother.

The other, Simeon, Balkovic, Smiths and O'Reillys—John knew them all by their first names. He would, if they knew he existed—except as a neighbor.

John's shoulders seemed a little more stooped as he walked back to the office, for he had to be more hard giving up the route, but it was harder still realizing he'd never had more fun just a round trip.

He didn't know what to think when he got back to the locker room and found a long envelope tucked under a civilian hat. John had opened it and read the letter inside. He read the last paragraphs three times.

Today we extend our sincere congratulations upon your retirement. Your presence as Guest of Honor at the dinner is desired in order that we may express our appreciation for your years of kind and faithful service to this community.

John McGraw had prepared to say a few words—they're giving you a watch.

Your friend,
Dan Johnson, President,
The Homeowners Association."

Old Dan carefully folded the letter and placed it in the envelope. Then he straightened his shoulders and looked up at the ceiling. "Guest of Honor." Years of kind and faithful service! Simeon had his head filled with pride, and there were tears in his eyes.

In spite of the red splotch, John McGraw had made his mark!

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CELEBRATES 17TH BIRTHDAY — A public figure in her own right, Princess Margaret Rose celebrated her 17th birthday Aug. 21. She is expected to be bridemaid at her sister's wedding to Lieut. David Mountbatten.

Wedding Was Strictly Inside The Family

Moscow Gets Half Ton Weight

BROCKAWAY, Pa.—Nobody had any trouble remembering names at the wedding of Avia Elizabeth Johnson, daughter of William C. Johnson, Lanes Mills and the ceremony was performed by Rev. T. H. Johnson.

And since only members of the immediate families witnessed the ceremony, everybody there was a Johnson.

Wedde races and succeeding generations have been stunted, diseased and even killed as a result of im-

MOSCOW.—Thirty-five carpet weavers in Ashabad have completed a 200-square meter carpet, the largest ever woven in that centre of the rug industry. The carpet will be used as a drop curtain in Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre. The carpet contains 250,000 knots per square meter and weighs more than a half a ton.

In China the invention of ink is

credited to Tien-tcheu, who lived about 2600 B.C. Proper dietary habits.

2741

CHINESE SURPRISED

LONDON.—Woo Pak Wing of Hong Kong, a conductor of the Chinese, asked his conductor answered his question in Chinese. The conductor learned the language when a prisoner-of-war in Japan.

CULTURAL CENTRE

A society to convert Brookland and Abingdon, the home of Sir Francis Drake, into a cultural centre and to use its 14th century barn for orchestral concerts, is being considered by the city council at Plymouth, England.

Architect Says Color Needed For Classrooms

CHICAGO.—It is the color of the schoolroom that puts the student in the mood for learning.

The architect, told the delegates of the 16th annual conference of administrators of public and private schools meeting at the University of Chicago.

For example says Breider, in the boy's room, where the boys lounge and relax, a soft, restful blue should be used. In the room where the "red hot" pep talk takes place the walls should be painted a dashing red color.

A typical elementary classroom should have a sunburst in the centre window with a side window. The entrance to the room should have a glass partition decked with glass side lights.

The outside of the windows

brings the outdoors into the classrooms with its light greens, yellows and blues.

Adequate lighting is another important factor. Adequate natural lighting should be obtained by use of large windows, as suggested by the architect. This may be obtained by long strip windows or vision panels, extending from the sill to a height of 10 feet above the floor. Above this height directional glass block extending to the ceiling may be installed.

As for artificial illumination, Mr. Breider recommended fluorescent low glare fixtures either suspended from or attached to the ceiling.

NEW PROFESSION

A profession born of these peculiar times is the "waker" employed at the Woods Theatre, Chicago, which is open all night. The "wakers" gird themselves with earphones to consciousness those who have dozed off and whose snoring interferes with listening to the sound track by others.

"UM-M-M! WHAT A FLAVOR-LIFT"



MR. BRISK says
"WHEN YOU'RE TIRED AS
YOU CAN BE, DRINK A
CUP OF LIPTON'S TEA"



LIPTON'S
SELECT
BRISK TEA

SALE OF
REGISTERED
HEREFORD CATTLE

McKenzie McGregor, Postmaster, Brandon, Manitoba, will hold a sale of approximately 100 head of registered Hereford Cattle, at the Agricultural Exhibition Grounds, Brandon, Manitoba, on Monday, October 26, 1947, at 10 a.m. All cattle will be sold "as is" with no guarantee.

SLOAN'S
LINIMENT

GOOD FOR
STRAINS
JUST PUT IT ON!



"What's that?" says the girl. "You're going to have a baby?"

"I'm going to have a baby," says the girl. "I'm going to have a baby."

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HERE AND THERE

George Vandell left for eastern Canada during the weekend. Mrs. J. J. Robinson is spending a week in Guelph.

The W. G. of St. Andrew's Church are being entertained in Strathmore Wednesday afternoon.

Rain fell Saturday and with slight showers since then very little damage has been done to the district has been reported.

Mrs. Charles Thompson entertained a shower last Friday in honor of Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Wilson (McPhee). There were some 18 ladies present and an enjoyable afternoon was spent.

Dr. A. E. Wilson of Calgary and his wife, Mrs. Charles Thompson, were guests of the Alberta division of the Canadian Medical Association in Edmonton. Dr. Wilson was raised in Gleichen and almost everybody in the district knows him.

For the past few weeks the farmers have been cutting up the farmers crops and as a consequence some farmers have received permission to shoot them and already many a duck has been shot by the people of the district.

The rain last week blew down the last arch on the roof of the recreation centre. Some time ago when about a third of the roof supports were up a gale blew them down and broke many of them. As soon as harvest is over work on the centre again will begin.

W. Erford is a busy man these days cutting down and sawing up for lumber the big poplar trees in front of Dr. Farquharson's home. When Mr. Erford finishes his job he will have enough wood to last a long time.



By F. J. GREENE
Director,
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Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Agricultural Publications

One of the important functions of the Lion Elevators Service Service is to serve as a general information bureau, on practical and technical problems, for farmers, country grain buyers, and others in the field. For this purpose we have published a series of agricultural publications not available from other sources. These publications and bulletins and circulars have become popular not only with farmers, but also with rural school teachers and pupils.

Back to School. Schools are reopening all over the country. Every day, we receive many inquiries from rural teachers and students for literature on agricultural subjects. Our own experience in this matter applies to the schools in Canada, there is a very urgent need for a series of publications dealing with the agricultural problems of the schools. Although Lion Elevators Farm Service publications were not prepared as series, many of them will be helpful to rural teachers and students in school studies.

Bulletins and circulars dealing with the following subjects are available: Water Erosion of Soils, Weeds, Organized Crop Protection and Crop Insects, Growing Small Fruits and Root and Root Diseases of Crops, and Crop Protection and D.D.T. on the Control of Crop Pests. Circulars on the Control of Crop Pests can be obtained through any Lion Elevators Agent or directly from the Lion Elevators Farm Service, Winnipeg or Calgary.

An Acknowledgment. It is again a pleasure to acknowledge the general interest shown by the distinguished agriculturists in the preparation of these publications. We have been most gratified in collecting their support and assistance. Lion Elevators Farm Service publications have been prepared by the best agricultural specialists in Western Canada. The information they contain is up-to-date and reliable and, as a result, they have become exceedingly popular with the farming public.

Ontario and British Columbia.

Imperial has already bought five new ocean going tankers for its own fleet and is chartering extra ships to bring in surplus crude oil.

It is operating 2,700 more tank cars than in 1939 and sending to more distant supply points to bring in crude oil and products.

It purchases crude oil and

laid an 80 year old pipe line to get more oil into Sarnia last winter.

The company announced recently

that it has acquired the Whitehorse Refinery for \$1,000,000 at Edmonton where it will process Alberta crude.

This will save 18 months time

against building a new plant, but at

no saving in cost of construction.

The present tight supply situation

is due to the expansion of the oil

industry's usual margin of supply over demand, but at present it is going all-out to

manufacture and store the fuels which

the oil companies are using.

Industry is using all its facilities,

even though some new

plants are being built.

Some of the new plants are

not yet in operation.

It is the opinion of the

company that the

present situation is

due to the

present

shortage of

labor.

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